

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 9, 2001

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jill Schmidt, Commissioners Una McAlinden, Regina Riley, and Heidi Houghton. Youth Advocate: Jamie Bakun.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Roger Kjos, Cara Byrne, Rebecca LaBrunerie, Joe Adams, and Kay Tarapolsi. Youth Advocate: Jane Butterfield.

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Commission Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Supervisor; Erika Vandenbrande, Planning Department.

OTHERS PRESENT: Cliff Garten, Jill Pan, and Cynthia Gould Brown.

.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jill Schmidt called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:06 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to the unavailability of a quorum of Commissioners (five required on a Commission of nine members), approval of the retreat minutes of June 28, 2001 and the regular RAC minutes of July 12, 2001 were postponed to next month.

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Under Reports:

- Banners
- Art Tour
- Outdoor Sculpture Maintenance

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

City Transit Shelters – Art Project

Erika Vandenbrande, Redmond Planning Department, appealed to Commissioners for input on an art element for the City's transit shelters. She is seeking funding through agencies and private groups for 4-5 of the shelters. An application will be made for shelter construction through an Enhancement Grant (due date 8/25/01). There may be a better chance of securing it with an artistic element, showing a quality art component with the design. It is a federal grant through the state and Puget Sound Regional Council. The Planning Department is currently discussing options with King County Metro. If a standard shelter were constructed, King County would provide the operations and maintenance of the facility; if it were a designed shelter (similar to the City of Bellevue), then the City would assume those duties.

For cost effectiveness, standard shelters are being considered. However, in City's gateway areas, Vandenbrande would like to use art to tie in with other themes of the surrounding areas. She posed a joint opportunity with RAC. She suggested, for example, the art could tie in with Sound Transit's "compass" idea at the Overlake Transit Center, MOC laser cut-outs, Redmond Park and Ride, or Town Center transit. Her strategy is to have aesthetically pleasing and user friendly transit shelters as mini-gateways into the City. She asked Commissioners for ideas as to how art could be incorporated, design themes, and how to generate the artwork.

Commissioners had the following suggestions:

- Tie in with Art Outside the Box. It was noted, however, that it might delay the utility box project to do so.
- Use it as an educational project working with students (Arts Education Committee might assist in obtaining grants). Vandenbrande noted that it could be an avenue to consider; although, with the Enhancement Grant, it would not be as effective as perhaps an environmental theme, such as streams.
- Possible partnership opportunity with Town Center.
- Use one design for all shelters.

Schmidt invited Vandenbrande to contact the Visual Arts Committee (Commissioners Schmidt and Riley) for further discussion.

Skillingstead offered to submit a letter of support to accompany the grant application. Vandenbrande will forward a draft to her.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. KCAC York Bridge Art – Artist Presentation

Cynthia Gould Brown, with the King County Public Art Program, referenced the 1% for art program for the York Bridge Art project. Jill Pan, Project Engineer with King County Roads Division, was introduced as part of the design team, along with selected artist, Cliff Garten. Garten presented his observations surrounding the site:

- He defines the site as a beautiful valley with rural character.
- The site is becoming an urban place with a strong sense of its context and assets.
- A “tension” exists with its contested land over development (agricultural; recreational; fish endangered; a channeled river, not meandering; multi-users of equestrian, biking, kayaking, etc.).
- He believes he can portray a reconciliation of the “conflict” via a symbol in his art process.
- May look at the geology of the site and the social aspects.

He will do cultural research to determine what is important to Redmond citizens. Garten invited Commissioner input as to what they would like to see in his design.

- Schmidt observed it is a farming valley that, little by little, is going away; therefore, bring some acknowledgement that it was there—a tribute to it (nature).
- Houghton would like to emphasize the view and what is there: a river valley with two ridges.
- Schmidt sees it as an opportunity to offer sports enthusiasts something artistically eye-catching they wouldn’t normally see.
- Skillingstead believed it was important for users to know they are over a river, crossing on the bridge.

It was noted that Microsoft, being headquartered in Redmond, gives the City a global feeling, and, along with the Town Center development, is an essence of the controversy of cultural change. Garten will consider incorporating these concepts together: technology, that the river was the valley, and awareness of being on the bridge.

He would create an open design to achieve an under-the-bridge experience as well as an awareness of being on the bridge and going over water. Garten would like to meet with artists of the community to see their ideas and possibly work with them. Skillingstead will forward an artist list to him.

Garten will present a design development package to King County on January 10, 2002. He may also attend the January RAC meeting to present the package to

Commissioners. Skillingstead noted that meeting could be televised, which would bring publicity for the bridge. She will follow up and inform him.

After the County presentation, Garten noted financial support would be generated for the project. A construction model is anticipated that would circulate in public places to educate people in the process. (Approximate cost is between \$5,000 to \$10,000, not currently budgeted.) Redmond could be on the list to view the model.

Houghton suggested Garten speak with members of RASP, other theatre companies, and Redmond Historical Society.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Multi-media presentation update/review

Skillingstead reported that Cris Berns is continuing to work on the multi-media project. Berns proposed a separate ad hoc committee of a few Commissioners to review the work. They would report recommendations to the entire Commission; however, due to many projects and the large amount of volunteer hours spent in committees currently, Commissioners opted to review Berns' work collectively in the October RAC meeting.

B. 2002-2003 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Proposal

Schmidt presented a letter from Susan Asia, curator for this year's Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit, regarding her scope of service that would be offered in the 2002-2003 exhibit. In her narrative explanation, she proposed her curator fee increase to \$7,500, in addition to the already proposed honorarium increase and insurance inclusion.

Although not many historical comparisons were available, Sandra Bettencourt researched appropriate sources and also spoke with Ms. Asia. Since no budget is currently available for these proposed amounts, Bettencourt recommended requesting Asia to compose an actual itemized budget of use, in order to clarify for Commissioners a cost breakdown. She also suggested Asia provide general guidelines, which include a clause covering, for example, what is "the identified approved work over and above the normal scope of work" (e.g. a check list for risk management for the artists to understand ahead of time). Also, Bettencourt researched with the City's Risk Manager the proposed insurance that the City would carry for artist protection. It was determined at approximately \$1,000.

Commissioners offered these suggestions:

- Could scale the exhibit down to five artists; however, this would present an unnecessary compromise
- Consider not holding the exhibit at all
- Keep same amount of artists, without higher cost
- Put out a call for curators
- Consider realistic ability to hold the exhibit within the budget
- Investigate other options and competition
- Consider timeline and available lead time
- If change curators, insist on quality
- No need to rush the process; could be installed in the fall instead of spring
- Cautioned not to hold the space vacant for too long
- Need a serious business budget to know whether or not the exhibit could be done or to see if funds could be obtained elsewhere

Bettencourt noted no other use was scheduled for the land on the northeast section of the municipal campus in the near future. She summarized these options: (1) choose not to do the exhibit; (2) obtain a sponsor for half of the cost (still need a cost budget); or (3) do further research for an annual exhibit with Northwest Stone Sculpture Association as a group that would take on the exhibit in a co-sponsor capacity (for example, like Eastside Fine Arts Association or RASP with other events).

Bettencourt will include in Commissioners' packet before the next meeting a risk management check list for feedback. Riley volunteered to be the feedback/contact person; Bettencourt will call her with budget information.

C. RAC Mission Statement

Schmidt reiterated the mission statement suggested last month by McAlinden as "Enhancing our community through the arts." Positive support for the new statement was received last month from Commissioners in attendance. All Commissioners at this meeting favored the simplified statement, which would later provide a good platform to streamline RAC goals as well.

A motion would be put back on the agenda for next month when a quorum might be expected. To adopt the new mission statement, a letter of recommendation would be written from the Commission to Parks Director and the Mayor.

VII. REPORTS

A. Arts Commissioner/Committees

1. Chair and Vice Chair

a. Chairperson Schmidt

1) Derby Days

A thank you letter was received for the Commission's participation in this year's event. The committee is anticipating an expanded Derby Days next year, and they would like RAC's input. Written comments and/or recommendations can be sent to the event committee via Chair Schmidt.

2) WOMAD

Commissioners received tickets for WOMAD. Schmidt will send a thank you.

3) Staff Time

Schmidt met with Skillingstead and Bettencourt to discuss balancing new project ideas with actual available staff time. Skillingstead will prepare a chart of her annual budgeted time to give Commissioners. She will also complete a monthly time sheet, detailing her committee participation. This will bring awareness of her time spent on project needs. It will be important for each committee chair to be in communication with Skillingstead. Schmidt asked for ideas in how to streamline the process. Houghton suggested sending e-mails with attached documents to multiple addressees.

b. Vice Chair McAlinden

1) Board and Commissions Dinner

The dinner will be held September 7, 2001. The event provides a good opportunity for public relations. McAlinden will e-mail all Commissioners not present at this meeting to encourage attendance as well. The dinner also honors outgoing Commissioners. McAlinden will invite past Commissioners Carissa Smith-Hunt, Cris Berns, and Paul Goode.

2. Visual Arts

Schmidt reported on the following:

a. Utility Box

Don Cairns reported to Schmidt that the utility boxes are covered with a coating to easily wash off graffiti. Schmidt will investigate a paint product that could stay on the boxes. Skillingstead will check on it as well.

John Harris at Redmond Signs will help transfer the pattern onto the boxes. He suggested doing the credits on a small aluminum piece, siliconed onto the box. He recommended a paint that is not toxic; rather, use outdoor latex, with rollers and sponge brushes. He can order brushes at a reasonable price.

Schmidt will ascertain whether or not the boxes can actually be painted. She noted the artwork can be done over a period of time, and that the Wells Fargo Bank manager was very accommodating with an extended timeline.

Schmidt will also contact the city of Santa Fe and inquire whether or not they had a problem with paint adhering and what kind of paint they used.

b. Co-chair Position

Schmidt announced that more time is being required of her as Chairperson for the Commission, so she is looking for a co-chair to the Visual Arts Committee and invited members to consider the position.

3. Literary Arts

None. (LaBrunerie was absent from the meeting)

4. Photo Documentation

None. (LaBrunerie was absent from the meeting)

5. Arts Education

McAlinden reported on the following:

a. Art Docent

The committee has invited Jane Thomas to Monday's 7:00 p.m. committee meeting to hear how she grew the art docent program at Wilder Elementary.

They may ask her to join the committee and take over the docent program. They will ask her to do a simplified presentation at the Art Docent meeting in September (9/17/01). Byrne stated Thomas is enthusiastic about becoming involved.

b. School District Art Curriculum Program

- Curriculum developers were selected
- The first draft of the contract has been developed by Skillingstead
- Tentative start date is September 1, 2001
- Official kick off of the program will be late September or first of October (all Commissioners were invited to attend)

c. Online Directory

Byrne completed instruction with Tarapolsi on researching foundation grants via the online directory at the Redmond library.

d. Celebrate Redmond Foundation

The committee invited Jill Dalager, Director of the Celebrate Redmond Foundation, to the Arts Education meeting to discuss Arts Education grants.

e. Redmond Lights

Byrne has contacted Kathie Murray about attending the next Redmond Lights committee meeting on 9/14/01 to discuss how the RAC could help kick off the Winter Concert Series during the Redmond Lights event, and possibly have art docents present an art show with Redmond children.

6. Grants

Riley reported the following:

- Arts Education Grant (AEG) deadline was set for 9/21/01. (The date will not be changed for this time). Skillingstead will be holding a training this month (Monday, 8/20) so candidates will have time to work on the applications.
- Skillingstead noted the Arts Education Grant applications were mailed two weeks ago. The Organizational Support Grant applications went out the beginning of this week.
- The committee may exchange the dates of the two grant times next year.
- McAlinden will ask art docents at their next committee meeting whether or not April or May might work better for the AEG. She will inform Riley. Advertising could begin in February.

- The two grant brochures were distributed at Derby Days. Schmidt noted however that more Arts in the Parts and Art Treks brochures were taken by the public than grant material. Commissioners suggested putting them in other public places such as the ORSCC kiosk, etc.

7. Performing Arts

None. (Adams not present at this meeting)

8. Arts Funding

Riley will e-mail Kjos to schedule a committee meeting date. Houghton noted she would be available after 8/20/01. Skillingstead will be on vacation from 9/23/01 until after Labor Day.

9. Cultural Plan Update

Houghton reported a letter was received from the Rockefeller Grant Foundation to inform the City they were in receipt of the committee's grant application. The Foundation will convene in September and determine the grant recipients by November.

10. Youth Advocate

Schmidt thanked Bakun for her participation in the Derby Days event at the RAC booth.

11. Marketing

Schmidt reported on the following:

a. Filming

LaBrunerie and Schmidt met with Kim Van Ekstrom and Patrick Hirsch. It was decided to begin RAC marketing by doing a film on Art Treks. All concluded the Art Treks would be good to learn from, then build other marketing ideas from that. It was suggested that, for example, each Commissioner could choose a sculpture they liked and talk about it. These spots would be clipped in with other people in varying age groups, during different weather conditions, etc. Small sections would be easier to use in presentations and clips. Schmidt asked Commissioners to think of other ideas, as well as other directions to go to from this starting point.

b. Redmond Lights

Byrne met with Kathie Murray regarding RAC marketing through Redmond Lights. Murray was pleased in RAC's initial contact and desire to participate. She will carry through on meetings and will keep RAC informed.

B. Staff Reports

Skillingstead reported on the following:

1. Annual Report

The Annual Report is on hold in the print shop, due to a family emergency at the plate maker's shop.

Schmidt and McAlinden will compose their text for the Sculpture Garden brochure and forward to Skillingstead, who will forward it to the print shop.

2. Web site Updates

Skillingstead met with Marta Hurwitz and the City's web designer to discuss realistically and philosophically the set-up of the Arts Commission web site and its current lack of intuitive links on the City's site. Skillingstead will send them web site copies that show where links come from (e.g. the Arts Education grant application link). Skillingstead will be trained to do some of the easier edits, which will then be changed on the live site.

McAlinden suggested providing a link on the City's home page to Boards and Commissions. Skillingstead noted that the RAC is different than the other commissions due to its many and varied programs.

3. Redmond Art Festival Update

The festival has been postponed. Twenty-two people signed up; they needed at least 25-30 to be cost-effective. Next year, the event coordinators will put more time into planning and providing more lead time (e.g. right after the first of the year). There will be more information (web site and phone numbers) in the Parks and Recreation brochure for all artists interested in participating in the 2002 festival. The event would also like to receive funding from the City (RAC or Parks and Recreation).

4. Derby Days

The parade was a success. Commissioners handed out Art Treks and Arts in the Parks flyers along side the decorated City van that accompanied *Rouge*. Houghton suggested for next year that those handing out flyers could wear hats in the form of their favorite sculpture, and/or people could pose as a sculpture, for example, Diane and Aurora.

5. Banners

John from Redmond Signs donated a banner advertising the Arts in the Parks concerts. The banner will be installed on the railroad trestle on Monday, 8/13/01.

Bettencourt contacted co-workers to get names of vendors they have used to create banners and at what cost. Another generic sign with changing panels is being considered. The panels would include additional information with dates, etc., pertinent to the event. If the job exceeded \$2,000, the city would do a competitive bid. Bettencourt presented a handout of vendors. Redmond Signs would also be considered in the bidding process. All vendors would be explained the concept and parameters to accommodate the trestle.

Bettencourt also handed out a sample request form for permit to use the trestle for banner installation. The trestle is a prime space for public advertising (with a 14-day maximum display time). Bettencourt is investigating whether or not the City could extend past the maximum, and also if they can attach signs to others' banners. She will follow up with LaBrunerie to get on a request schedule.

Schmidt suggested nominating John from Redmond Signs for an RAC award in the future. He also gives many hours of volunteer work, for example, he was instrumental in establishing the flower pots throughout the City.

6. Art Tour

Houghton, Schmidt, the Mayor, Parks Director Danny Hopkins, Council members Richard Cole and Holly Plackett attended the Art Tour. They toured various areas of art on Education Hill, the Senior Center, the 90th Street bridge, the fire station, the temporary monumental exhibit, etc. Positive feedback was received from the attendees. The tour provided a good opportunity for public relations, informing them of all that the RAC does for the City.

Schmidt will be meeting with Hopkins to update him on the last three RAC meetings. She will endeavor to meet with him every 3-4 months.

Skillingstead will do another tour during the weekday for City staff. She will let RAC know when that date would be. McAlinden suggested holding the tour on a

semi-regular basis and writing an article in the *Focus* to publicize it. Skillingstead proposed working with the Senior Center to use their bus and staff to drive it.

7. Outdoor Sculpture Maintenance

Lynda Rockwood is contracted to maintain the City's outdoor sculpture pieces. She is now in the process of cleaning and touching up the artwork.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary: Pamela K. Maybee, *Call A Typist*

NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:

September 13, 2001

Televised

Public Safety Building – Council Chambers

7:00 p.m.

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: August 9, 2001

Audience Present

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Erika Vandenbrande	City of Redmond	556-2457
Cliff Garten	CGA/Artist	310-827-4372
Jill Pan	201 S. Jackson St. Seattle, 98104 MS KSC-TR-0242	206-205-5203
Cynthia Gould Brown	KC Public Art Program	206-296-8692